The Madras Village Panchayats Act.

* 637 *Q.*—SRI C. KUNHIRAMA KURUP: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state when the Government propose to implement the provisions of the Madras Village Panchayats Act and how?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI:—" The Madras Village Panchayats Act, 1950, has been brought into force with effect from the 1st April 1951. The constitution of new panchayats under the provisions of this Act will be taken up after the reconstitution of the existing panchayats by holding elections to them is completed."

Increase in the charge for impounding animals.

* 638 *Q.*—SRI S. VEMIAH: Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state whether there is any increase in the charges for impounding bull (ox), cow, buffalo, camel, pig, horse and ass between 1946 and 1952; and if so, the reasons for the same?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—" Yes, Sir. Twice. There was an increase in the rate by 50 per cent with effect from 1st October 1948 and a further increase of 25 per cent with effect from 1st October 1950. The rates were increased with effect from 1st October 1948 and again from 1st October 1950 on the ground that the rates of fines previously in force were not sufficiently deterrent."

Selection of Assistant Surgeons.

* 639 *Q.*—DR. K. B. MENON: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) was a Doctor holding M.B.B.S., D.T.M. & H (Eng.), M.R.C.P. (Lond.), given a rank lower than an L.M.P. in the recent selection of Assistant Surgeons; and

(*b*) what was the basis on which the Government required the Public Service Commission to make selections of Assistant Surgeons and fix their relative rank?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (*b*) The Madras Public Service Commission was asked to recruit 352 candidates for appointment as Assistant Surgeons. No special instructions were issued to the Commission in respect of the basis of recruitment or fixation of relative rank of the selected candidates. The recruitment was done in accordance with the normal statutory rules in force."